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COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Item 4 of the agenda

PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNEXION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Observations received from Governments and non-governmental organizations

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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PART I

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CHINA

[Original: English]
30 September 1964

The Government of China is in general agreement with the programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights as contained in working paper ST/SG/AC.5/3. The Chairman and other officers of the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights are to be congratulated for having formulated the programme, which, in the view of the Chinese Government, constitutes a sound basis for the preparation of the International Year.

In addition to the measures and activities listed in the programme, the Committee might wish to consider the desirability of inviting Member States to designate national correspondents on human rights, who should be highly competent jurists or scholars concerned with problems of human rights. The correspondents could assist the Commission on Human Rights or other organs in making studies or supplying information on human rights and fundamental freedoms; they could offer suggestions from time to time relating to the United Nations programme of human rights. If each Member State were to participate, through its officially designated correspondent, in the United Nations activities in the field of human rights, the human rights programme as a whole could become more dynamic and effective.

Another measure which could be undertaken would be to invite Member States to encourage the production of films and records, of a documentary or dramatic character, on historic events, great proclamations, or famous institutions relating to the protection of human rights. Such films and records could be deposited with the United Nations for distribution to Member States at their request. They could be telecast or broadcast widely, especially during the International Year for Human Rights.

IRAN

[Original: English]
7 October 1964

After careful study of the Working Paper ST/SG/AC.5/3, suggesting programmes of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, the Government of Iran has found the views and proposals expressed therein are in accord with its views on this subject and is of the opinion that an international conference in 1968 would be useful and desirable for the purpose of:

1. reviewing the progress which has been made in the field of Human Rights;
2. evaluating the effectiveness of the methods and techniques used by the United Nations in the field of Human Rights; and
3. formulating and preparing a programme of further measures to be taken subsequent to the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Government of Iran fully shares the views expressed by the Representative of the Philippines at the third meeting of the Committee, in that proper emphasis on research and training in the field of human rights should be given in the programme and curriculum of the United Nations Institute on Research and Training [General Assembly resolutions 1827 (XVII) and 1934 (XVIII)].

The Government of Iran suggests that in accordance with the ECOSOC resolution 958 DI (XXXVI), training courses on Human Rights should be included in the curricula of the existing Regional United Nations Institutes as well as those of the specialized agencies, in particular ILO and UNESCO. In addition, an effort should be made towards inclusion of such courses in the curricula of universities and institutes throughout the world (ECOSOC resolution 958 DI (XXXVI)).

The Government of Iran is also of the opinion that the present United Nations programme of Advisory Services in the field of Human Rights should be maintained and further expanded.

ITALY

[Original: English]
12 October 1964

As the Italian delegate on the Committee on the International Year for Human Rights stated at the third meeting of the Committee, held on 8 July, the Italian Government welcomes the proposals contained in the Working Paper submitted by the Chairman in collaboration with the officers of the Committee (ST/SG/AC.5/3).

The Italian Government in particular welcomes the measures for the effective implementation of the rights and freedoms contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, measures that - the Italian Government hopes - will contribute to transforming the principles of the Declaration into binding legal obligations.

LIBERIA

[Original: English]
8 October 1964

The Government of Liberia has thoroughly examined the working paper on the "Programme of Measures and Activities to be Undertaken in Connexion with the International Year for Human Rights" and finds that the proposals contained in the said working document correspond to the basic views of the Government of Liberia on the subject matter.

In addition, the Government of Liberia wishes to propose that in the course of the observance of the International Year for Human Rights all Member States should lay emphasis on the abolition of all forms of racial discrimination. It also proposes that all Member States undertake, through their Ministries of Education of other appropriate government agencies, the teaching in their schools of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights so as to promote respect for human rights and the removal of racial prejudice.

POLAND

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

/Original: English/
2 October 1964

Her Majesty's Government welcome the Bureau's Working Paper (ST/SG/AC.5/3) containing proposals for the celebration of 1968 as International Year for Human Rights and designed to make "a lasting contribution to the cause of Human Rights". Her Majesty's Government fully support the view that an energetic effort should be made by the United Nations and Member States to achieve a fuller and more effective realization of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the time the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration is celebrated in 1968.

With regard to the proposed intensification of efforts in the field of human rights between now and 1968, Her Majesty's Government hope that the United Nations organs mainly concerned with the implementation of the principles of the Declaration, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Commission and its Sub-Commission, will be able to make substantial progress in completing the projects which are at present before them. In particular, they hope that the Assembly will complete consideration of the draft international covenants on human rights, including effective international measures of implementation, as soon as possible. Her Majesty's Government also attache importance to the early completion by the Assembly of a draft declaration and convention against all forms of religious intolerance.

Her Majesty's Government have the following comments on the Bureau's Working Paper:

Part I

Paragraph 13. Her Majesty's Government doubt whether it is necessary or practicable to seek to secure that all Member States focus attention on the same particular rights or freedoms at the same periods of the International Year and they would point out that the review by Governments of domestic legislati

(part III of Working Paper). They also consider that the selection of rights as subjects for this purpose may be invidious; they consider it important that freedom of opinion and expression, which includes freedom of information, should be included in any such list of rights.

Paragraphs 16 to 18. Her Majesty's Government welcome the importance which the Bureau gives to the implementation of the draft international covenants and to the necessity for national machinery to give effect to rights and freedoms and provide effective remedies for their violation; they suggest that proposals to achieve this latter object should be included in Part III of the Working Paper. So far as the question of the implementation of the human rights covenants is concerned, it seems to them that the appropriateness of the measures suggested will depend on the stage which the consideration of this subject has reached in the General Assembly.

Paragraphs 19 to 26. Her Majesty's Government consider that the recommendations are exhaustive and a useful basis for further consideration by the Assembly, by specialized agencies and by non-governmental organizations and Her Majesty's Government will reserve detailed proposals until that stage.

Her Majesty's Government welcome the proposals to invite non-governmental organizations to take part in the celebration of the International Year because of the contribution that they can make to the creation and expression of public opinion.

Part II

Her Majesty's Government remain to be convinced of the value of holding an international conference in 1968. A review of progress and the preparation of a programme for future activities are not tasks which a conference could possibly fulfil unless the basis for such work had been laid by careful consideration and documentation by expert bodies beforehand, as indeed the Bureau proposes for the further task of the evaluation of techniques. It seems to Her Majesty's Government that all these matters must first be carefully studied within the United Nations

the United Nations which are fully competent to deal with questions of human rights, namely the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Commission and its sub-Commission.

Part III

Paragraph 42. Her Majesty's Government are in agreement with the Bureau that all Member States should examine in the period before 1968 their existing law and practice in the light of the provisions of the Universal Declaration and consider in what respects these fall short of the aims set forth in the Declaration and what steps can be taken to give fuller and more effective realization to the rights and freedoms which the Declaration proclaims. They consider however, that the methods by which this task should be carried out should be left to Governments to decide and that the proposed National Advisory Committee constitute only one and not necessarily the most appropriate method for this purpose.

Paragraph 45. Her Majesty's Government fully agree with the Bureau that there are limits to the effectiveness of laws in making any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed by the Declaration a reality and that education is necessary to root out prejudices and give laws a firm basis in public opinion. Accordingly they welcome the emphasis on education in the Bureau's proposals, on which they will give more detailed comments at an appropriate stage of the discussions on them.

PART II

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

[Original: English]
29 September 1964

The Associated Country Women of the World feel, in view of the number of campaigns envisaged which come under the umbrella of ECOSOC, that a more effective form of participation by the public and specialized agencies in celebrating events in the United Nations would be made if such events were co-ordinated with existing campaigns. They feel that to celebrate 1968 as International Year for Human Rights should form part of the present Development Decade rather than being an event in itself.

In commenting on the activities suggested in the Working Paper ST/SG/AC.5/3 which NGOs might carry out during International Year for Human Rights, ACWW feels that the printing of the text of the Declaration of Human Rights is a burden for NGOs. We would suggest that the text might be printed by the United Nations and sold to the NGOs who could then distribute it.

ACWW further suggests that for NGOs to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or articles thereof, as the theme of their annual or special conferences in 1968 might prove difficult, but that it would be easier if NGOs were asked simply to adopt it as the subject for a discussion group in an annual or special conference.

WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE

[Original: English]
28 September 1964

and world campaigns. Although WUS fully supports the aims and purposes of these manifestations, we feel that there is a danger of creating apathy among the general public by too many "Years". You will also appreciate that it is somewhat difficult for a number of NGOs, which carry our on-going programmes which in many cases are based on the principles which the special Years are supposed to highlight, to intensify their efforts in too many directions. You will know that many NGOs are closely connected with the Freedom From Hunger Campaign, with the planned UNESCO Illiteracy Campaign, with the World Co-Operation Year, and may be involved in the World Campaign against Hunger, Disease and Ignorance, if this materializes. [We] sincerely hope that the Committee which is drawing up the plans for 1968 as Human Rights Year will keep in mind the necessity of varying the approach to the public in order to achieve the hoped-for success.